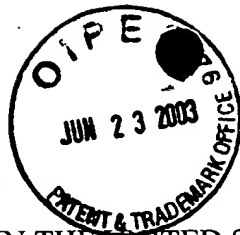


FUR0012-US



#6 7-18-03
TDS/Refer
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

KAZUYUKI ASHIMURA ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/671,683

Filed: SEPTEMBER 28, 2000

For: SPEECH SYNTHESIS DEVICES

Art Unit: 2641

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned Technology Center 2600

RECEIVED

JUN 24 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants wish to make of record in the above-identified application the document or documents referenced on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each reference is enclosed herewith.

The cited references are mentioned in the Office Action of applicant's corresponding Japanese patent application and are believed relevant for at least that reason.

The undersigned believes that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Accordingly, Applicants do not believe that a fee is due for filing this paper. However, should a first action on the merits have been issued on the same day or before this Information Disclosure Statement is filed, please accept this Information Disclosure Statement under Rule 97(c) and charge the requisite Rule 17(p) fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1390, under Order No.

FUR0012-US and proceed to consider this Information Disclosure Statement.

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Attorney's Docket No.: FUR0012-US
Page 2

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that each reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that any referenced document is material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that one or more of the referenced documents constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the reference or references.

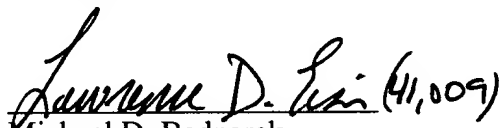
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over any referenced document, should it be applied against the claims of the present application.

SHAW PITTMAN LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703/770-7900

Date: June 23, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

KAZUYUKI ASHIMURA ET AL.

By: 
for Michael D. Bednarek
Registration No. 32,329

(Use several sheets if necessary)

FUR0012-C

09/671,683

Applicant(s)

KAZUYUKI ASHIMURA ET AL.

Filing Date

SEPTEMBER 28, 2000

Group Art Unit

2641

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Technology Center 260b

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Translation

YES

NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABSTRACTS OF JP-1-209500, 9-185393 AND 64-44498

DATE CONSIDERED

3 If citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and
4 copy of this form with next communication to applicant.